

Message Text

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TAGS: UNDP, UNFPA, EAID
SUBJECT: 25TH UNDP GOVERNING COUNCIL - UNFPA (ITEM 18)
WRAP-UP

REF: GENEVA 9624

1. SUMMARY. UNFPA ITEM WAS ADDRESSED BY 29 DELEGATIONS WITH EMPHASIS BEING PLACED UPON THE ALLOCATION OF RESOURCES ESPECIALLY TO FUTURE INTER-COUNTRY ACTIVITIES, HEADQUARTERS MANAGEMENT, THE AVOIDANCE OF INVOLVEMENT IN PURELY DEVELOPMENTAL PROGRAMMING; IDENTIFICATION OF PRIORITY AREAS AND THE AVOIDANCE OF PROGRAMMING WHICH WOULD IMPINGE UPON HUMAN RIGHTS. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SALAS AND HIS STAFF WERE AS USUAL RESPONSIBLE AND DESIROUS OF REFLECTING COUNCIL'S MOOD AND DIRECTION. END SUMMARY.

2. FOLLOWING THE RESOLUTION OF THE ISSUE OF PROGRAMMING POPULATION ASSISTANCE IN THE SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM (SRV), THE LENGTHY DISCUSSION ON ITEM L8 SEEMED ALMOST ANTI-CLIMATIC. NEVERTHELESS A NUMBER OF IMPORTANT POINTS EMERGED AS INDICATED BELOW.

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3. CONTRIBUTIONS. SEVERAL COUNTRIES ANNOUNCED INCREASES IN SUPPORT TO UNFPA INCLUDING SWITZERLAND WITH 100 PERCENT RISE TO DOLS 1 MILLION, JAPAN WHICH ANNOUNCED A PLEDGE OF DOLS 14.5 MILLION AND CANADA. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SALAS REPORTED TOTAL PAYMENTS OF DOLS 12 MILLION AGAINST THE ARAB LEAGUE PLEDGE IN 1975. NORWAY STATED ITS INABILITY TO INCREASE ITS CONTRIBUTIONS WHILE

SWEDEN EXPRESSED DOUBT THAT UNFPA COULD OBTAIN SUFFICIENT RESOURCES UNLESS MULTI-YEAR PLEDGES WERE MADE: (THIS POSITION WAS CONSISTENT WITH SWEDISH AUGMENTATION REGARDING MULTI-YEAR PLEDGING FOR UNDP.) PLEDGES FOR 1978 REACHED THE TARGET OF DOLS 105 MILLION AND SALAS EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE IN OBTAINING DOLS 120 MILLION IN 1979. APPROVAL LEVEL FOR 79 WAS SET AT THE LATTER FIGURE WHILE AN ADDITIONAL DOLS 10 MILLION WAS AUTHORIZED FOR 1978 TO PERMIT USE OF A LARGER-THAN-EXPECTED 1977 CARRYOVER. TOTAL FOR 1978 WOULD THUS BE DOLS 115 MILLION.

4. INTERCOUNTRY ACTIVITIES. WITH THE NOTABLE EXCEPTION OF THE UK, MOST DELEGATIONS REJECTED OR EXPRESSED RESERVATIONS CONCERNING THE SETTING OF A FIXED PERCENTAGE AS HIGH AS 30 PERCENT FOR ALLOCATION OF UNFPA RESOURCES FOR INTERCOUNTRY PROGRAMS. DENMARK, NORWAY, SWEDEN AND SWITZERLAND TOOK POSITIONS SIMILAR TO THAT OF THE US IN REQUESTING THAT THE COUNCIL HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO CONSIDER SPECIFIC PROPOSALS FOR INTERCOUNTRY PROJECTS RELATED TO BASIC COUNTRY NEEDS. NORWAY IN PARTICULAR WOULD HAVE SET A LEVEL NO HIGHER THAN 20 PERCENT FOR SUCH ACTIVITIES. DURING DEBATE, NORWAY EXPRESSED SURPRISE THAT UNFPA SEEMED TO BE INCREASING ITS FOCUS ON INTER-COUNTRY ACTIVITIES DESPITE THE CONTRARY VIEWS OF THE COUNCIL. FINLAND POINTED TO THE ADMINISTRATIVE BURDEN OF SOME INTERCOUNTRY PROJECTS AND CALLED FOR APPROPRIATE

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CONSOLIDATION. THE RESOLUTION OF DISPARITY OF VIEWS REQUIRED EXTENSIVE INFORMAL CONSULTATIONS AND THE ASTUTE MANAGEMENT OF COUNCIL VICE PRESIDENT AMBASSADOR OF KUWAIT, ALI DABBAGH. THE DECISION ON THIS ISSUE QUOTED BELOW REFLECTS THE ACTIVE INVOLVEMENT OF US DEL AND PROVIDES FOR CONSIDERABLE FLEXIBILITY WHILE EMPHASIZING THAT NO CONSENSUS EXISTS, CERTAINLY NOT FOR AN ALLOCATION OF 30 PERCENT TO INTERCOUNTRY ACTIVITY. MOREOVER, THE FUND IS ENCOURAGED TO CONTINUE THE TREND TOWARD PROVIDING AN INCREASING PROPORTION OF RESOURCES TO COUNTRY LEVEL ACTIVITIES.

5. RESOURCE ALLOCATION: IN CALLING FOR APPROPRIATE USE OF UNFPA RESOURCES, US DEL HAD ACTIVE SUPPORT OF SWEDEN AND UK WHICH SECONDED THE WARNING AGAINST THE FUND'S STRAYING INTO THE AREAS OF GENERAL ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT (SEE US STATEMENT FORWARDED SEPARATELY). SALAS EXPLAINED THAT UNFPA IS NOW RECEIVING AID REQUESTS RELATED INTER ALIA TO PROBLEMS OF THE AGED, URBAN-RURAL RESETTLEMENT, MORBIDITY AND MORTALITY -- ALL INVOLVING FERTILITY CONTROL ONLY INCIDENTIALLY. HE AGREED TO PROVIDE THE COUNCIL WITH ANALYSIS OF IMPACT ON CORE PROGRAMMING OF

THESE REQUESTS. (COMMENT: SALAS' FEELING THAT FUND SHOULD BE RESPONSIVE TO THESE REQUESTS PLUS ITS RE-INVIGORATED APPROACH TO INTERCOUNTRY PROGRAMMING DESERVE CAREFUL USG ATTENTION. ADULTERATION OF THE TRADITIONAL FOCUS OF UNFPA SUPPORT PLUS A PERSISTENT CONCENTRATION ON INTERCOUNTRY ACTIVITY COULD JEOPARDIZE THE CURRENT BASIS OF US SUPPORT. WHILE OUR CONCERNS WERE EXPRESSED IN THE FORMAL STATEMENT AND IN PRIVATE CONVERSATIONS WITH SALAS AND STAFF, DEPARTMENT AND AID MAY WISH TO CONSIDER EFFICACY OF WRITTEN REITERATION OF US VIEWS ON APPROPRIATE ALLOCATION OF UNFPA RESOURCES.)

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6. EVALUATION. TWELVE DELEGATIONS INCLUDING US GAVE STRONG APPROVAL TO UNFPA EVALUTION MEASURES AND ENCOURAGED THEIR CONTINUATION. AUSTRALIA NOTED EVIDENCE THAT UNFPA SHOULD IMPROVE ARRANGEMENTS WITH ESCAP ON PROJECT EXECUTION AND REQUESTED FUTURE REPORT ON REMEDIAL ACTION.

7. PERSONNEL. UNEPA PROMISE ON MAINTAINING HEADQUARTERS COMPLEMENT AT 145 FOR NEXT FEW YEARS HAD COUNCIL CONCURRENCE. IN FACE OF DETERMINED CANADIAN OPPOSITON TO PROPOSED STAFF UPGRADINGS AND INCREASES, COMPROMISE WAS REACHED ACCEPTING ONE UPGRADING EACH TO D-1 AND P-5 IN EXCHANGE FOR DELETING FROM NEW POSITIONS ONE P-4 AND ONE G-4. IT WAS ACCEPTED THAT MORE FIELD COORDINATORS SHOULD BE HIRED AND THAT THEY SHOULD CONTINUE TO BE FUNDED UNDER PROJECTS.

8. CONTRACEPTIVE SUPPLY. SWEDEN, SUPPORTED BY THE US,

STRESSED THE NEED TO INSURE UNINTERRUPTED SUPPLY OF CONTRACEPTIVES FOR DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AS WELL AS AN APPROPRIATE DELIVERY SYSTEM TO INDIVIDUAL USERS. THE WHOLLY UNDESIRABLE CONSEQUENCES OF INTERRUPTIONS IN SUPPLIES WERE EMPHASIZED. THE UNFPA WAS CALLED UPON TO

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ASSIST IN PLANNING FOR LOCAL PRODCUTIOOND REQUISITE DELIVERY ASSISTANCE. SWEDISH REP URGED UNFPA TO COLLABORATE WITH OTHER DONORS WHEN FOREIGN EXCHANGE DIFFICULTIES THREATEN SUPPLY INTERRUPTION. IN REPLY, UNFPA PROMISED PARTICULAR ATTENTION TO THIS MATTER AND CONSULTATION WITH INTERESTED PARTIES.

9. WHO SPECIAL PROGRAM. PRAISE FOR THE WHO SPECIAL PROGRAM OF RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, AND RESEARCH TRAINING IN HUMAN REPRODUCTION WAS VOICED BY AUSTRALIA, CANADA, DENMARK, FRG, SWEDEN AND UK, ALL OF WHOM SUPPORTED THE UNFPA PLEDGES OF DOLS 1.4 MILLION FOR 1977-78 BIENNium. NEVERTHELESS US DEL WAS SUCCESSFUL IN WRITING INTO DECISION (SEEDBELOWTHE REQUEST THAT UNFPA PROVIDE COUNCIL FOR ITS APPROVAL SPECIFIC PROPOSALS FOR FUTURE SUPPORT TO GLOBAL PROGRAMS INCLUDING THAT OF WHO.

10. MISCELLANEOUS. BANGLADESH, JORDAN, AND TUNISIA SPOKE APPRECIATIVELY OF UNFPA ASSISTANCE RECEIVED. TUNISIA CREDITED UNFPA WITH MAJOR ROLE IN INSPIRING CHANGE OF POLICIES AND HELPING TO PROMOTE A BETTER LIFE. BANGLADESH SUGGESTED THE FUND SHOULD RECEIVE A HUMANITARIAN AWARD AND THAT IT DESERVED A BETTER ROLE IN THE IN THE UN SYSTEM. USSR, IN RARE INTERVENTION ON UNFPA MATTERS, SUPPORTED THE VIETNAM PROJECT AS AMENDED AND URGED THE FUND TO CARRY OUT RESEARCH PROJECTS IN EE COUNTRIES USING RUBLE CONTRIBUTION. VIETNAM OBSERVER LIMITED HIS REMARKS TO PRAISE FOR UNFPA ACTIVITY AND OBSERVED THAT THE PRIORITY PROBLEM OF POPULATION REDISTRIBUTION COULD NOT BE CARRIED OUT WITHOUT VOLUNTARY COOPERATION OF THE PEOPLE. ALL ASIAN DELEGATIONS URGED GREATER SUPPORT FOR ESCAP POPULATION ACTIVITY.

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11. ASSESSMENT. UNFPA CONTINUES TO BE HELD IN HIGH REGARD BY COUNCIL MEMBERS WHO ARE GENERALLY DISPOSED TO APPROVE ITS RECOMMENDATIONS. ONE NOTABLE EXCEPTION WAS THE

POSITIONON INTERCOUNTRY ACTIVITIES TO WHICH MOST RECIPIENT COUNTRY ADDRESSED ITSELF. THERE WAS AS NOTED ABOVE AN EMERGING UNEASE ON THE PART OF SOME DONORS CONCERNING THE APPROPRIATENESS OF SOME RESOURCE ALLOCATIONS. WHILE SALAS IS REGARDED AS RUNNING A TIGHT SHIP THE COUNCIL NEVERTHELESS INSISTS ON EXAMINING CLOSELY HIS ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS. AS LONG AS THIS EXAMINATION DOES NOT BECOME TOO DETAILED IT CAN HAVE A SALUTARY EFFECT. THE DRAFT DECISION QUOTED BELOW REFLECTS THE US POSITION ON ALL ISSUES OF CONCERN TO US. WHILE THE FUND SECRETARIAT WILL VIGOROUSLY PURSUE ITS PROPOSALS, IT IS VERY SENSITIVE Q THE POSITIONS OF MAJOR DONORS AND MAKES ADJUSTMENTS ACCORDINGLY. WITH THIS IN MIND IT IS IMPORTANT THAT THE US CONTINUE THE PRACTICE OF MAKING CLEAR TO UNFPA US VIEWS ON PRIORITY ACTIVITIES, PROGRAMMING AND ALLOCATION OF RESOURCES.

VANDEN HEUVEL

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